

Judicial Branch made his opening statement with the Majority Report he stated that the Committee of the Judicial Branch had refused to change the name of the Court of Appeals in Maryland to the Supreme Court because of the reverence that the Court of Appeals was held in by the lawyers of this state, not only of the lawyers of this state, but by the lawyers of this nation.

I say that what you are asked to do is to discard a one hundred year old system that brought forth the Maryland Court of Appeals, which as the Chairman says has been held in reverence in Maryland and throughout the nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Dorsey, your time is up.

DELEGATE DORSEY: Very well.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Mudd.

DELEGATE MUDD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield three minutes to Delegate Hanson.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, for some two or three days I enjoyed the editorial comments among the lawyers on this floor. I speak here today with some trepidation as a non-lawyer. I must confess to being a political scientist. I hasten to add that I never attended the Harvard Law School. The need for reform of the courts in Maryland, it seems to me, is at the lower levels. If we make no changes at the appellate level, I think we could continue without too much difficulty.

I like the report of the Commission and the changes it makes at the appellate level, but however great the need is there, the need is tenfold more at the lower court level.

Again I hasten to add, I speak not as a lawyer, not as one who has practiced in the court, but as one who has attempted as a citizen from time to time to influence the quality of the courts in the State by helping in the campaigns of judicial persons.

Now, how is the system working? What happens when a man tries to run for judge in a major county of the State? One of the first problems is the collection of campaign contributions and, I submit as a person who believes strongly in politics, that the worst place for a man to have to go out and get campaign contributions is when he is running for judge. In one of the major metropolitan counties of this State it costs a

minimum of \$10,000 just to play the game of running for office in a contested election. If you have a hot contest, then you better have \$15 to \$25 thousand available. That kind of campaign money is not around in \$1 or \$2 contributions from average citizens who are simply interested in the good and effective administration of justice in the State. There is the problem that the judgeship race, being placed at the bottom of the ticket, is not an important race in the scheme of things in the elections of this State or in any counties of this State. What it means is that the party which happens to be winning in that particular year is going to carry its candidate as a judge even though the judge is running on what is normally a non-partisan ticket.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute, Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: This, I submit, Mr. Chairman, is not a satisfactory way to choose a judge. If we are going to choose a judge, we need to have a careful screening done before a man ascends to the bench.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Johnson.

For what purpose does Delegate Malkus rise?

DELEGATE MALKUS: I will ask the professor if he will yield to a question.

THE CHAIRMAN: He has no time to yield to a question at this point. He might in the uncontrolled period.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Johnson.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: I will yield three minutes to Delegate Rybczynski.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: As a practicing attorney in private practice in the city of Baltimore, I have been in this job for thirteen years and if the actuaries of the large insurance companies are correct, I will be at it for approximately thirty-five years more. So I would like to say one or two things about the matter.

I, too, want screening of candidates for the judiciary. I think this is important. I think it is even more important that it be done the way the Committee asks on the appellate levels. This is important, but it is not important on the trial court levels.

As I asked Delegate Mudd the other day, how in the world can lay members of a